Sanctioning of gas agencies and petrol/diesel outlets

814. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gas Agencies and Petrol/Diesel outlets have been sanctioned recently without routine the proposals through the oil selection Boards; and

(b) if so, what were the compelling reasons to circumvent the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Retail Outlets (Diesel/Petrol) dealerships and LPG distributorships have been sanctioned to candidates selected by the Oil Selection Boards. However, in the interest of better service to customers, a few direct distributorships have been given recently to Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Establishments, Cooperative Societies/Project authorities and Public Charitable Trusts for their exclusive use. In addition some dealerships/distributorships have also been granted at the discretion of Government on merits of individual cases. A few 2/3 wheeler retail outlets started on an experimental basis were awarded to candidates through selection by the oil companies.

815. [*Transferred to the 21st August*, 1990.]

Utilisation of natural gas

816. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 794 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether additional facilities have since been created to bring the gas that is at present being flared up in the Western Offshore fields to Onshore for supplying to the consumers; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what steps Government have to fully utilise the natural gas that has been found in Krishna-Godavari Basin, both offshore and onshore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) ONGC have prepared a project proposal for setting up additional facilities for compression and transportation of associated gas in the Bombay Offshore area. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 2002 crores.

This project is currently under consideration of the Government. It is expected that with the implementation of this project flaring of gas would be stopped in the Bombay Offshore Region by 1993-94.

In addition to the above, the Heera-Uran Trunk Pipeline having facilities for gas compression is also being commissioned shortly by ONGC. This will help in reducing flaring of Heera gas to the tune of about 1.5 MMCMD.

(b) The natural gas produced in Onshore KG Basin being non-associated gas, the production corresponds to demand.

Presently, 33,000 MMCMD gas is being produced from free gas fields of KG Basin (Onshore) and the same is being supplies to the consumers. 0.4 MMCMD of gas supply to APSEB power plant at Kovvur is likely to start shortly.

A project for setting up a gas pipe line from Tatipaka to Kakinada has been submitted by GAIL and is currently under consideration of Government. This would facilitate the

supply of gas for the fertilizer plant of M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizer and Chemicals which is under construction at Kakinada. It has also been decided to commit gas in this region to two new power plants of 400 MW each and a small fertilizer plant. At present no natural gas is being produced from onshore basin. The production is expected to begin only by 1993-94.

Malaria in epidemic form in Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh

817. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that malaria is spreading in epidemic form in tribal areas of Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh and there are 1,20,000 cases already detected and 115 deaths have been reported:

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such high incidence of malaria and

(c) what effective steps Government propose to take to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government is aware of an outbreak of malaria in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh during the month of July, 1990 and a total number of 201 deaths have been reported due to Malaria and other causes against 2275 malaria positive cases reported during this period.

(b) The reasons for the out-break are as under:—

—Absence of spray operations as the area is less than 2 API (API no. of positive cases of malaria per thousand population per year)

—Lack of surveillance

—Improper and patchy surveillance activities.

—Absence of focal spray and investigation of detected malaria cases.

—The affected areas are in the immediate neighbourhood of high incidence persistant transmission PHCs.

(c) The following specific steps have been taken to control the disease:-

—Director, N.M.E.P. visited the State Headquarters and the affected district from 29th July to 1st August, 1990 to evaluate the situation, organise containment measures and to give technical guidance to contain the outbreak.

—Adequate quantities of insecticides and anti-malaria drugs have been supplied to the State Health Authorities.

—Intensive case detection through peripheral health workers, Mobile Medical Teams and Treatment through the Medical Officers is being undertaken. Pyrethrum Space Spray is being done. Fogging through vehicle mounted fogging machines has been done in the villages where vehicle can go.

—Health Education and publicity about the disease symptoms, where to get treatment and the benefits of insecticidal spray are being carried out.

Clearance for the operation of Air Taxies

818. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 enpreneures have sought clearance from